

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 4-17, 20-27, NS 29-32 are pending in the application, with 1, 17, and 27 being the independent claims. Claims 2, 3, 18, 19, and 28 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection to the Claims

Claim 19 has been cancelled and its allowable features incorporated into independent claim 17. Claim 27 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 11, 19, 26, 28 and 31 contain allowable subject matter. In light thereof, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3 and intermediary claim 2; claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 19 and intermediary claim 18; and claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 28.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12, 13, 15-18, 20, 21, and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Yanagawa, U.S. Patent Appl. Pub. No. 2001/0046163. (herein referred to as "Yanagawa"). By the foregoing amendments to claims 1 and 17, it is believed that these claims, as well as their respective dependent claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of this ground of rejection and allowance of the claims presented herein.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7, 14, 22, 27, 29, 30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yanagawa, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,738,880 to Lai *et al.* (herein referred to as "Lai"). By the foregoing amendment to claims 1, 17, and 27, it is believed that these claims, as well as their respective dependent claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of this ground of rejection. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7, 14, 22, 27, 29, 30 and 32, and allowance thereof.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

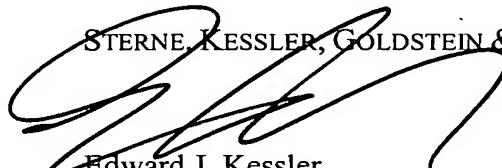
Amdt. dated October 17, 2006 - 9 -
Reply to Office Action of April 17, 2006

NOVAK *et al.*
Appl. No. 10/684,789

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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